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All About

Introduction to Greek and Top 5 Reasons to Study

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Grammar Points

All About Greek – An Introduction to the Greek Language

History of Greek Language: Linguistics

Greek is an independent language family within the Indo-European language branch.

Its written documentation is one of the oldest within the Indo-European languages and dates back to the thirteenth century BC, and it has been spoken for centuries. The Greek language is mainly prevalent in the southern Balkan Peninsula.

There are large varieies of spoken modern vernaculars that divide into various geographical dialects. Standard Greek is mainly used in the Attic area in the South and in larger cities.

The Greek language is one of the most profound languages in the world, with its phonology, morphology, syntax, and vocabulary showing both conservative and innovative tendencies from ancient times to the modern period.

Greek loanwords are widely used in other European languages including English, and it's mainly used in mathematics, philosophy, medicine, theater, and science. Twelve percent of modern English vocabulary may be of Greek origin.

About Country of Origin

The Greek language came to the southern Balkan Peninsula over 34 centuries ago and is now spoken mainly in Greece and Cyprus as well as neighboring countries such as Albania, the Republic of Macedonia, and Bulgaria. Approximately 14 million people speak Greek natively. But it is also spoken in several different places in the world due to emigration, including countries such as Germany, Russia, and Italy.

Where Is it Spoken?

The Greek language is now mainly spoken in Greece as well as in Cyprus. The ancient Greeks settled on Cyprus around 1600 BC, and that is why they speak Greek. The Greek in Cyprus is slightly different from Greek in Greece. The difference is mainly in dialect and pronunciation.

There are around twenty million speakers of Greek in the world of whom fourteen million are native.

Why it Is Important

The top five reasons to learn this language are…

1. To know Greek is to know one of the oldest and most useful languages in the world.
2. By learning Greek, one can get a deeper understanding of European history and culture.
3. The Greek alphabet is the base for the Romanized alphabet and is uniquely structured.
4. Knowing Greek will help one learn other European languages, such as French and English, more easily. An estimated twelve percent of the English vocabulary has Greek origins.
5. Learn Greek and one will gain an understanding and an appreciation for its myths, its history, and its culture–a culture and a tradition that have remained a part of Western Civilization for over 2500 years. The Greek culture is a culture and a tradition that you can explore and someday pass down to a new generation - a culture and tradition that is already your own.